

【I】 次の会話文を読み、空欄 1. ～ 7. に当てはまる単語として最も適切なものをそれぞれ (a)～(d)から 1 つ選び、その記号を○で囲みなさい。

Chris: Hey, Kaede, have you heard about the overtourism problem in Japan?

Kaede: Yes, I have! Many places, like Kyoto and Mount Fuji, are full of tourists 1. days. It's becoming a big issue.

Chris: True. It brings a lot of money to Japan, which is good for the economy. Local businesses, like shops and restaurants, can grow 2. of tourism.

Kaede: That's true, but there are also negative effects. For example, some cultural sites are getting damaged from too 3. visitors. And local people sometimes feel disturbed by the crowd and noise.

Chris: Yeah, I can see that. Also, public transportation can get really crowded, especially in big cities 4. Tokyo. It makes daily life harder for people who live there.

Kaede: Exactly. Plus, the environment suffers too. More waste is created, and nature is damaged, like at Mount Fuji, where there's more litter 5. than ever before.

Chris: I think Japan should try to manage tourism better, maybe limit visitors 6. some places or promote less popular areas.

Kaede: I agree. Finding a balance 7. tourism benefits and protecting our culture and environment is really important.

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|----|-------------|-------------|------------|--------------|
| 1. | (a) these | (b) one | (c) every | (d) recently |
| 2. | (a) because | (b) despite | (c) from | (d) however |
| 3. | (a) rude | (b) lots | (c) crazy | (d) many |
| 4. | (a) love | (b) popular | (c) like | (d) famous |
| 5. | (a) since | (b) through | (c) during | (d) now |
| 6. | (a) to | (b) of | (c) by | (d) with |
| 7. | (a) around | (b) between | (c) above | (d) below |

【II】 次の会話文を読み、空欄 1. ～ 7. に当てはまる単語として最も適切なものをそれぞれ (a)～(d)から 1 つ選び、その記号を○で囲みなさい。

Fumiko: Hey, Anton. Have you noticed 1. many people are eating ultra-processed foods these days?

Anton: Yeah, I've seen it too. They're everywhere! It's convenient, but I've heard they can be bad for our health.

Fumiko: That's right. Ultra-processed foods usually have a lot of sugar, salt, and unhealthy fats. Eating too much of them can increase the 2. of health problems, like obesity* and heart disease.

Anton: And 3. often have artificial flavors and preservatives. Those can't be good for our bodies in the long run.

Fumiko: Exactly. I think people eat them because they're easy to prepare and usually cheap.

Anton: True, but there are healthier options, like fresh fruits and vegetables, even though they're sometimes more expensive 4. less convenient.

Fumiko: Yes, and I think it's important to balance. It's okay to eat 5. ultra-processed foods, but not too much.

Anton: Agreed. 6. schools could teach students more about healthy eating and the effects of ultra-processed foods.

Fumiko: That's a great idea! Learning more might help us make 7. choices for our health.

*obesity 肥満症

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|----|---------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1. | (a) why | (b) how | (c) what | (d) when |
| 2. | (a) dangerous | (b) worse | (c) risk | (d) worrying |
| 3. | (a) them | (b) that | (c) it | (d) they |
| 4. | (a) or | (b) than | (c) because | (d) since |
| 5. | (a) some | (b) all | (c) none | (d) half |
| 6. | (a) Possible | (b) Sure | (c) Maybe | (d) Should |
| 7. | (a) better | (b) improve | (c) best | (d) well |

【III】 次の英文を読み、後の問いに答えなさい。

Best Friends

On the first day of high school, Aiko and Kenji sat next to each other in class. Aiko was a quiet girl who enjoyed activities like playing video games and building model cars. Kenji, on the other hand, liked cooking and sewing. Both of them felt shy and unsure of how to start a conversation.

During break time, the teacher asked everyone to introduce themselves. Aiko stood up first, her heart beating fast. “I like video games and model cars,” she said softly, feeling nervous. Some students laughed, but Kenji didn’t. Instead, he looked curious. When it was his turn, Kenji said, “I like cooking and sewing.” This time, a few more students laughed, but Aiko smiled a little. She was surprised to hear about Kenji’s interests.

During the first few weeks, Aiko and Kenji didn’t talk much. They both sat quietly in class and did their work. Sometimes, they would glance at each other, but they were too shy to speak. However, one day after school, they both stayed behind to finish some homework. Kenji noticed Aiko struggling with a math problem. He hesitated, but then said, “Do you need help?” Aiko looked surprised but nodded. They worked together, and for the first time, they had a real conversation.

As the school year went on, Aiko and Kenji began talking more and more. They shared stories about their hobbies and laughed about how different they were from other students. Aiko even brought her model cars to show Kenji, and he shared some of the cookies he baked. They realized they had more in common than they thought.

By the end of the school year, Aiko and Kenji were best friends. They had learned to appreciate each other’s differences and had become inseparable. What started as a shy friendship had turned into a strong bond.

問い 1 : 次の 1. ～ 10. に対する答えとして最も適切なものをそれぞれ (a)～(d)から 1 つ選び、その記号を○で囲みなさい。

1. Where did Aiko and Kenji first meet?

- (a) At a friend's house
- (b) At the park
- (c) In their high school class
- (d) On the bus

2. What hobbies does Aiko enjoy?

- (a) Cooking and sewing
- (b) Playing basketball and soccer
- (c) Reading books and writing stories
- (d) Video games and building model cars

3. What does Kenji like to do in his free time?

- (a) Build model airplanes
- (b) Cook and sew
- (c) Play the guitar
- (d) Play video games

4. How did Aiko feel when introducing herself on the first day of class?

- (a) Angry and frustrated
- (b) Bored and uninterested
- (c) Excited and confident
- (d) Nervous and shy

5. What was the reaction of some students when Aiko introduced her hobbies?

- (a) They asked questions.
- (b) They clapped.
- (c) They laughed.
- (d) They smiled.

6. What made Aiko smile during Kenji's introduction?

- (a) Kenji liked cooking and sewing.
- (b) Kenji made a joke.
- (c) Kenji said he liked video games.
- (d) Kenji smiled at her.

7. How did Aiko and Kenji first start talking to each other?

- (a) Aiko asked Kenji for help with homework.
- (b) Kenji offered to help Aiko with her math problem.
- (c) The teacher introduced them to each other.
- (d) They bumped into each other in the hallway.

8. What did Kenji share with Aiko as their friendship grew?

- (a) A model airplane
- (b) A new book
- (c) Cookies that he baked
- (d) His favorite video games

9. What did Aiko and Kenji realize as they got to know each other better?

- (a) Even with their different hobbies, they had a lot in common.
- (b) They didn't like the same things and told each other so.
- (c) They wanted to switch hobbies with each other.
- (d) They were very competitive and took score on everything.

10. By the end of the school year, Aiko and Kenji's friendship was:

- (a) Best friends with a strong bond
- (b) Friendly but not close
- (c) Only classmates with no real connection
- (d) Still shy and distant

問い 2 : 次の ～ に対する答えとして最も適切なものをそれぞれ (a)～(d)から 1 つ選び、その記号を○で囲みなさい。

Based on the story, why were Aiko and Kenji shy at the beginning of the school year?

- (a) They both felt their hobbies were unusual.
- (b) They didn't have any relatives in class.
- (c) They didn't like each other at first.
- (d) They were too focused on their studies to talk.

Based on the story, what can we learn from Aiko and Kenji's friendship about judging people based on their hobbies?

- (a) Girls and boys should only do activities that match their gender.
- (b) Ideas about hobbies should not limit who we become friends with.
- (c) It's important to only be friends with those who have the same interests.
- (d) People with different hobbies cannot become friends.

Based on the story, how did Aiko and Kenji's friendship change over time, and what does this tell us about forming friendships?

- (a) Friendships can grow stronger as people learn to appreciate each other's differences.
- (b) Friendships happen only when people have the same opinions.
- (c) Friendships only develop through shared hobbies.
- (d) Friendships stay the same if people don't talk much.

Based on the story, if Aiko and Kenji had never spoken to each other, how might their school experience have been different?

- (a) They would have been happier not interacting with each other.
- (b) They would have focused more on their part-time work and hobbies.
- (c) They would have remained lonely and missed out on a great friendship.
- (d) They would not have made friends with other students who liked the same things.

What does the story suggest about overcoming shyness to form connections with others?

- (a) Overcoming shyness can lead to meaningful and surprising friendships.
- (b) People should wait until others talk to them first and then ignore them.
- (c) Shyness is not something people should try to change, even if it means being alone.
- (d) Shyness prevents people from forming any real family relations.

【IV】 次の英文を読み、後の問いに答えなさい。

Recycling

Recycling means taking old or used items and turning them into new products. It is an important way to reduce trash, save natural resources, and help protect the environment. Many people and governments around the world see recycling as a way to make the planet cleaner and healthier. But, like most things, recycling has both good and bad sides.

Recycling helps reduce the amount of trash we create. When we recycle, less waste ends up in landfills* or is burned. Landfills can cause pollution by releasing harmful chemicals into the air, water, and soil. This pollution can damage the environment and harm animals and people. Burning trash can also create dangerous gases that hurt the atmosphere and make the air unhealthy to breathe. By recycling more, we can keep our environment safer and healthier by reducing pollution.

Another advantage of recycling is that it saves natural resources. Many things we use every day, like paper, plastic, and metal, come from nature. For example, paper is made from trees, and plastic is made from oil. When we recycle items like paper, plastic, and glass, we don't need to cut down as many trees, mine for metals, or drill for oil.

Recycling also saves energy. Making new products from raw materials uses a lot of energy. For example, making new aluminum cans from raw materials takes 95% more energy than making them from recycled cans. Recycling not only saves energy, but also reduces pollution from factories.

Even though recycling has many benefits, it also has some problems. One of the main problems is that recycling can be expensive. Setting up recycling programs, collecting recyclable items, and processing them costs money. In some cases, it costs more to recycle certain materials, like plastic, than it does to make new plastic. This can be a problem for cities and countries that don't have enough money to invest in recycling programs.

Another problem with recycling is that not everything can be recycled easily. Some materials, such as certain types of plastic or products made from mixed materials, are difficult to recycle. These items often end up in landfills or are burned because recycling them is too expensive or complicated.

Recycling can also fail if people don't follow the rules. For example, putting the wrong type of plastic or dirty items into the recycling bin can ruin the whole batch of recyclables. If recyclables are contaminated*, they might have to be thrown away instead of being reused.

In conclusion, recycling has many positive effects, including reducing trash, saving natural resources, and using less energy. However, it also has challenges, like the costs of recycling, the difficulty of recycling some materials, and problems caused by contamination. To make recycling work better, people need to learn the correct ways to recycle and governments need to support recycling programs. If everyone works together, recycling can help make our world a cleaner, healthier place for everyone.

*landfill 埋め立て地

*contaminate 汚す

問い 1 : 次の ～ に対する答えとして最も適切なものをそれぞれ (a)～(d)から 1 つ選び、その記号を○で囲みなさい。

What is recycling?

- (a) The process of burning waste materials
- (b) The process of converting waste materials into new products
- (c) The process of producing new materials from raw resources
- (d) The process of throwing away waste in landfills

Which of the following is a benefit of recycling?

- (a) It creates more landfills.
- (b) It increases the need for natural resources.
- (c) It produces more pollution.
- (d) It reduces the amount of waste in landfills.

How does recycling help to save natural resources?

- (a) By encouraging people to throw away more waste
- (b) By preventing people from using plastic
- (c) By reducing the need to use raw materials like trees and oil
- (d) By using less energy, waste can be put into landfills.

What percentage of energy is saved when recycling aluminum compared to making it from raw materials?

- (a) 25%
- (b) 50%
- (c) 75%
- (d) 95%

Why can recycling be expensive?

- (a) Collecting and processing materials costs money.
- (b) It requires building more landfills.
- (c) It requires people to burn waste.
- (d) Recycling always produces new raw materials.

6. What is one problem with recycling certain types of plastic?

- (a) They are impossible to reuse.
- (b) They can be more expensive to recycle than making new plastic.
- (c) They can only be recycled once.
- (d) They produce harmful chemicals.

7. What happens when people put the wrong type of plastic in the recycling bin?

- (a) It contaminates the whole batch of recyclables.
- (b) The materials are recycled correctly.
- (c) The plastic is sent to landfills anyway.
- (d) The recycling center processes it easily.

8. What is an important factor in making recycling more effective?

- (a) Burning more waste
- (b) Ignoring the sorting of recyclables
- (c) Reducing recycling programs
- (d) Reducing the amount of waste and reusing items

9. Why can contamination be a problem in recycling?

- (a) It causes recyclable materials to disappear.
- (b) It increases the number of recyclables.
- (c) It makes it harder to process the materials.
- (d) It makes recycling cheaper.

10. According to the essay, what is the best way to help the environment in addition to recycling?

- (a) Building more factories
- (b) Burning waste in incinerators
- (c) Using less raw materials
- (d) Using more natural resources

問い 2 : 次の ～ に対する答えとして最も適切なものをそれぞれ (a)～(d)から 1 つ選び、その記号を○で囲みなさい。

Based on the text, why is recycling still important even though it can be expensive?

- (a) Recycling is a way for companies to make more money.
- (b) Recycling helps create more waste for landfills.
- (c) Recycling only benefits small communities and is not useful globally.
- (d) Recycling reduces pollution and conserves natural resources.

Based on the text, what might happen if more people reduce waste and reuse items instead of just relying on recycling?

- (a) It would increase the cost of recycling and make the process more difficult.
- (b) Recycling could become less expensive with fewer materials to process.
- (c) Recycling programs would stop working altogether.
- (d) The need for recycling would disappear.

Based on the text, if contamination is a problem in recycling, what can communities do to reduce it?

- (a) Stop certain types of materials from being used entirely.
- (b) Increase the number of recycling centers without changing the rules.
- (c) Make recycling rules clearer and educate people on how to properly sort their waste.
- (d) Stop recycling altogether to avoid contamination.

Based on the text, why are some materials more difficult or impossible to recycle?

- (a) Certain materials are too expensive to collect and process.
- (b) People don't recycle those materials often, so they are less important.
- (c) Recycling centers don't want to accept them because they are not valuable.
- (d) Some materials are made of mixed components that cannot be separated easily.

Based on the text, how can governments encourage more people to recycle, despite the challenges mentioned in the essay?

- (a) Increase the price of recyclable materials to make recycling less attractive.
- (b) Make recycling programs more accessible and convenient for everyone.
- (c) Punish people who don't support recycling.
- (d) Stop recycling programs and focus only on reducing waste production.